

## **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM**



### **PLANT LEGUME COVER CROPS**

#### **WHAT:**

Legume cover crops include all legumes adapted to the area that provide cover when the primary crop is not growing.

#### **WHY:**

Legumes provide cover, plant diversity, labor distribution, nitrogen for the following crop and provide improved forage for wildlife and livestock.

#### **WHEN:**

Plant early in the recommended seeding dates listed in the UT PB-378 or during the dates listed in the Cover Crop Jobsheet. The cover crop is chemically burned down no earlier than April 20 in the spring or September 15 in the fall.

#### **WHERE:**

Legumes are planted on cropland where a cover crop is needed or soil quality could be improved. Do not plant on land where herbicide residue could be a problem or on soils where legumes are not adapted.

#### **HOW:**

Legumes may be planted by any method (no-till, or mulch tilled, broadcast, or aerial sown at first leaf drop of the primary crop) that provides 80% or better cover prior to planting the primary crop. Adapted legumes for Tennessee include crimson clover and hairy vetch.

#### **HOW MUCH:**

All crop land that meets the above criteria may be planted in a legume cover crop. If a mixture of grass and legumes is planted, seed a minimum of 70% of the full legume seeding rate.

CSP Enhancement payment is \$30.00 per acre per year for cropland planted to a legume cover crop. This practice is performed annually to be eligible for the payment.